Watershed Programme in Districts of AP

5620. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to emphasise the watershed development in drought prone areas of the country in view of the prevailing drought;

(b) to what extent is the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) given emphasis to watershed management in such areas;

(c) whether any effort has been made to enhance such watershed development activity in the drought prone districts of Anantapur and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details of the area brought under watershed development activity during the last three years; and

(e) the targets of watershed development in Kurnool and Anantapur districts of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development have been administering two special area development programmes namely the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) which are implemented mainly on watershed basis. Drought prone areas extending over 947 blocks of 164 districts in 13 States of the country have been identified for coverage under DPAP and desert areas of 227 blocks of 40 districts in 7 States have been identified for coverage under DDP. Under DPAP 8335 watershed development projects covering an estimated area of 41.68 lakh hectares are presently at various stages of implementation. Similarly, under DDP 3694 watershed development projects (including special projects) covering an estimated area of 18.47 lakh hectares are presently at various stages of implementation.

(c) In Anantapur and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh, special efforts have been taken to enhance the watershed development activity. A post of Project Director (DDP) for Anantapur district and a post of Project Director (DPAP) for Kurnool district has been sanctioned for implementation of the watershed programme exclusively. At present, 463 watershed development projects in Anantapur district and 691 watershed development projects in Kurnool district are under implementation under different schemes.

(d) During the last 3 years, 367 watershed development projects in

Anantapur district with an area of 1.84 lakh ha. and 615 watershed development project in Kurnool district with an area of 3.08 lakh ha. have been taken up for implementation.

(e) Government of India had sanctioned 96 new watershed development project under DDP for Anantapur district and 76 new watershed development project under DPAP for Kurnolo district during 1999-2000. However, no specific target has been fixed for the year 2000-2001 for these districts.

Fund to NGOs for development of watersheds

5621. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given funds to Non-governmental organisations all over the country to develop watersheds;

(b) if so, the funds given to NGOs to develop watersheds in 1999-2000;

(c) whether the funds have been properly utilised;

(d) whether any assessment has been done with regard to their work;

(e) if so, how many watershed areas were developed and what was the estimated benefit in terms od water harvests or area; and

(f) whether enhanced funding will also be given to State Governments for such work in 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 2.45 cores has been released to the NGOs during the year 1999-2000 by the Council for advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) which includes the funds released to the Support Voluntary Organisations (SVOs) for giving support services to the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) like training, technical support etc.

(c) An adverse report has been received in respect of one Voluntary organisation whom an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- was released during 1999-2000. The complaint is being looked into.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. About 1750 hectares have been covered and about 4487 hectares more is to be covered from the funds given to NGOs.

(f) No, Sir. Under Integrated Wastelands Development, Programme (IWDP) Scheme, on the basis of the Guidelies for Watershed Development, the funds are released to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/ Zilla